

# **The Ultimate Freedom: The Right to Vote Convicted of a Felony?**

## **A. If convicted of a felony before 1/1/02, you may restore your voting rights**

### ***Here's How:***

- 1) Contact the Registrars of Voters of the town where you live.
- 2) You must present to the Registrar (Deputy or Assistant) **written or other satisfactory proof that:** (This can be in the form of a document supplied by the Department of Correction but does not need to be that document, proof can be submitted in other forms)
  - a) you have been released from confinement or parole  
**or**
  - b) if you were never committed to the custody of Dept. of Correction for confinement in a correctional institution or facility or a community residence, you may present to the Registrar written or other **satisfactory proof that you were not committed to the custody of Dept. of Correction for confinement for your felony conviction.**
- 3) Then, the Registrar restores your electoral privileges. You must complete a voter registration card if the Registrar does not have one on file for you.  
Exception: (1) If convicted of a felony and committed for confinement for a violation of Title 9 of Connecticut election statutes, electoral privileges cannot be restored until you are discharged from probation.  
(2) If committed to a correctional facility of another state or federal facility, proof that fines have been paid is also required.

## **B. If convicted of a disfranchising felony after 1/1/02**

- (1) **only persons committed to the custody of the Commissioner of Correction for confinement in a correctional institution or facility or a community residence lose their voting rights**

(also, the following persons convicted of a felony after 1/1/02 lose their voting rights:

- (a) persons committed to confinement in a federal correctional institution or facility,
- (b) persons committed to the custody of the chief correctional official of any other state or a county of any other state for confinement in a correctional institution or facility or a community residence in such state or county.)

- (2) you may restore your voting rights

### ***Here's How:***

- 1) Contact the Registrars of Voters of the town where you live.
- 2) You must present to the Registrar (Deputy or Assistant) **written or other satisfactory proof that:** (This can be in the form of a document supplied by the Department of Correction but does not need to be that document, proof can be submitted in other forms)
- 3) You have been released from confinement, and, if applicable, discharged from parole
- 4) Then, the Registrar restores your electoral privileges. You must complete a voter registration card if the Registrar does not have one on file for you.

Exception: (1) if convicted of a felony and committed for confinement for a violation of Title 9 of Connecticut Election statutes, electoral privileges cannot be restored until you are discharged from probation.

- (2) If committed to a correctional facility of another state or federal facility, proof that fines have been paid is also required.

- C. If convicted of a felony after 1/1/02 and you are not committed to the custody of the Commissioner of Correction for confinement in a correctional institution or facility or a community residence, you do not lose your voting rights, and, if you are not a voter, you may register to vote like anyone else. Of course, if you were also convicted of another felony before 1/1/02, see paragraph A above.

**Produced by the Secretary of the State of Connecticut  
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**Conn. Gen. Stats. Secs. 9-45, 9-46 and 9-46a, as amended by Public Act 05-235**

**Sec. 9-45. Removal of convicted felons from registry list.** (a) The Commissioner of Correction shall, on or before the fifteenth day of each month, transmit to the Secretary of the State a list of all persons who, during the preceding calendar month, have been convicted in the Superior Court of a felony and committed to the custody of the Commissioner of Correction for confinement in a correctional institution or facility or a community residence. Such lists shall include the names, birth dates and addresses of such persons, with the dates of their conviction and the crimes of which such persons have been convicted. The Secretary of the State shall transmit such lists to the registrars of the towns in which such convicted persons resided at the time of their conviction and to the registrars of any towns where the secretary believes such persons may be electors. The registrars of such towns shall compare the same with the list of electors upon their registry lists and, after written notice mailed by certified mail to each of the persons named at the last-known place of address of such person, shall erase such names from the registry lists in their respective towns or voting districts.

(b) Any person who procures such person or another to be registered after having been disfranchised by reason of conviction of crime and committed to the custody of the Commissioner of Correction for confinement in a correctional institution or facility or a community residence, and any person who votes at any election after having forfeited such privileges by reason of conviction of crime and confinement, shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars and imprisoned not more than one year.

**Sec. 9-46. Forfeiture of electoral rights.** (a) A person shall forfeit such person's right to become an elector and such person's privileges as an elector upon conviction of a felony and committal to the custody of the Commissioner of Correction for confinement in a correctional institution or facility or a community residence, committal to confinement in a federal correctional institution or facility, or committal to the custody of the chief correctional official of any other state or a county of any other state for confinement in a correctional institution or facility or a community residence in such state or county.

(b) No person who has forfeited and not regained such person's privileges as an elector, as provided in section 9-46a, may be a candidate for or hold public office.

**Sec. 9-46a. Restoration of electoral privileges.** (a) A person who has been convicted of a felony and committed to confinement in a federal or other state correctional institution or facility or community residence shall have such person's electoral privileges restored upon submission of written or other satisfactory proof to the admitting official before whom such person presents his or her qualifications to be admitted as an elector, that all fines in conjunction with the conviction have been paid and that such person has been discharged from confinement, and, if applicable, parole.

(b) Upon the release from confinement in a correctional institution or facility or a community residence of a person who has been convicted of a felony and committed to the custody of the Commissioner of Correction and, if applicable, the discharge of such person from parole, (1) the person shall have the right to become an elector, (2) the Commissioner of Correction shall give the person a document certifying that the person has been released from such confinement and, if applicable, has been discharged from parole, (3) if the person was an elector at the time of such felony conviction and, after such release and any such discharge, is residing in the same municipality in which the person resided at the time of such felony conviction, the person's electoral privileges shall be restored upon submitting to an admitting official such document or other satisfactory proof that the person has been released from such confinement and, if applicable, discharged from parole, and (4) if the person was an elector at the time of such felony conviction and, after such release and any such discharge, is residing in a different municipality or if the person was not an elector at the time of such felony conviction, the person's electoral privileges shall be restored or granted upon submitting to an admitting official (A) satisfactory proof of the person's qualifications to be admitted as an elector, and (B) such document or other satisfactory proof that the person has been released from confinement and, if applicable, discharged from parole. The provisions of subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive, of this subsection shall not apply to any person convicted of a felony for a violation of any provision of title 9 until such person has been discharged from any parole or probation for such felony. No admitting official shall require that a person under this subsection submit a document from the Commission of Correction, as described in subdivision (2) of this subsection, in order to prove that the person has been discharged from confinement and, if applicable, discharged from parole.

(c) The registrars of voters of the municipality in which a person is admitted as an elector pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of this section, within thirty days after the date on which such person is admitted, shall notify the registrars of voters of the municipality wherein such person resided at the time of such person's conviction that such person's electoral rights have been so restored to him.

(d) The Commissioner of Correction shall establish procedures to inform those persons who have been convicted of a felony and committed to the custody of said commissioner for confinement in a correctional institution or facility or a community residence, and are eligible to have their electoral privileges restored or granted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, of the right and procedures to have such privileges restored. The Office of Adult Probation shall, within available appropriations, inform such persons who are on probation on the effective date of this section of their right to become electors and procedures to have their electoral privileges restored, which shall be in accordance with subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

(e) The Commissioner of Correction shall, on or before the fifteenth day of each month, transmit to the Secretary of the State a list of all persons convicted of a felony and committed to the custody of said commissioner and who, during the preceding calendar month, have been released from confinement in a correctional institution or facility or a community residence and, if applicable, discharged from parole. Such lists shall include the names, birth dates and addresses of such persons, with the dates of their convictions and the crimes of which such persons have been convicted. The Secretary of the State shall transmit such lists to the registrars of the municipalities in which such convicted persons resided at the time of their convictions and to the registrars of any municipalities where the secretary believes such persons may be electors.